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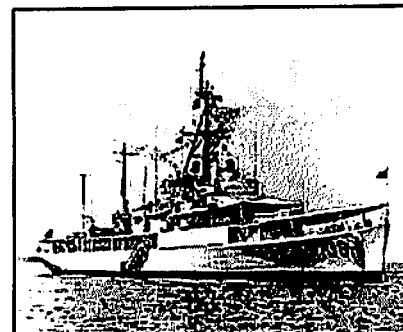
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USS *Duxbury Bay* (AVP-38), 1944-1967

USS *Duxbury Bay*, a 1,766-ton *Barnegat* class small seaplane tender, was built at Houghton, Washington, and was commissioned in December 1944. Departing the West Coast in March 1945, she called at Pearl Harbor and tended seaplanes at Eniwetok and Ulithi before arriving at Kerama Retto near Okinawa in April. For the remainder of the war she served the Third Fleet as seadrome control tender, mail ship, movie exchange, and gasoline supply ship for small craft.



After the end of the war, *Duxbury Bay* moved to the China Coast and tended patrol squadrons at Shanghai and Tsingtao, China; Jinsen, Korea; and Hong Kong until returning to San Francisco in October 1946. She performed two more tours in the Far East, one in 1947 and one in 1948. In March 1949 she sailed from Long Beach, Calif., on a round-the-world cruise during which she spent a month as flagship for Commander, Persian Gulf. She arrived at Norfolk in July 1949 and in November participated in cold weather exercises at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Between January 1950 and early 1966 *Duxbury Bay* performed 15 tours of duty in the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, and the Indian Ocean as flagship for Commander, Middle East Force. On average, she performed one cruise per year, spending the intervening periods in upkeep at her home port of Norfolk and undergoing refresher training at Guantanamo Bay. During most of this period the Middle East flagship duty rotated between three AVPs, all eventually painted white and specially fitted for the purpose: *Duxbury Bay*, *Greenwich Bay* (AVP-41), and *Valcour* (AVP-55).

This largely diplomatic and ceremonial duty had high points, such as a visit to *Duxbury Bay* in 1953 by Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. It also had breaks in the routine, such as acting as a contingent recovery ship for Project Mercury in May 1963. For the most part, however, it involved incessant shuttling between numerous ports in this large region broken by periods inport at her base at Bahrain.

Duxbury Bay was decommissioned in April 1966, only a few months after returning from her last deployment. She was sold for scrap in July 1967.

This page features, or provides links to, all our views of USS *Duxbury Bay*.

For additional photographs related to USS *Duxbury Bay*, see:

- [USS *Duxbury Bay* \(AVP-38\) -- Miscellaneous Views.](#)

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Patch contributed by Mike Smolinski

AVP-38 Duxbury Bay

Awards, Citations and Campaign Ribbons



Precedence of awards is from top to bottom, left to right

Top Row - China Service Medal (extended)

Second Row - Navy Expeditionary Service Medal (I-Cuba) - American Campaign Medal - Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal

Third Row - World War II Victory Medal - Navy Occupation Service Medal (with Asia Clasp) - National Defense Service Medal

Barnegat Class Small Seaplane Tender:

- Laid down, 17 January 1944, at Lake Washington Shipyards, Houghton, WA.
- Launched, 2 October 1944
- Commissioned, USS Duxbury Bay (AVP-38), 31 December 1944
- Decommissioned, 30 April 1966
- Struck from the Naval Register, 1 May 1966
- Final Disposition, sold for scrapping in July 1967

Specifications:

Displacement 1,766 t.(lt) 2,750 t.(fl)

Length 311' 8"

Beam 41' 1"

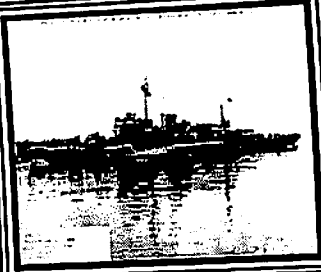
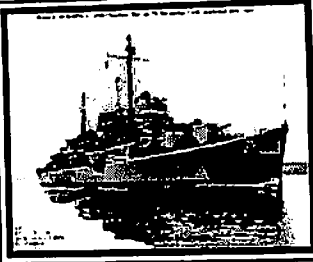
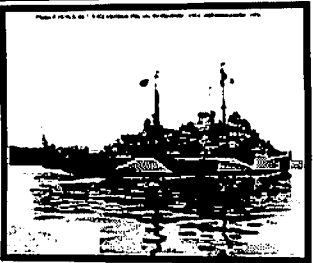
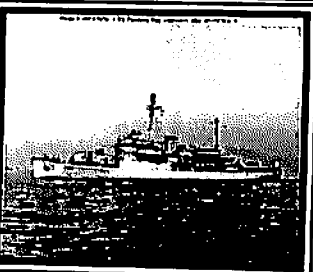

Draft 13' 6"

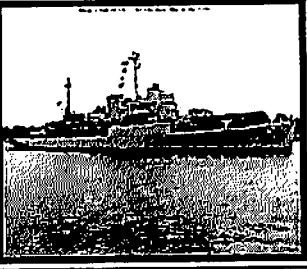
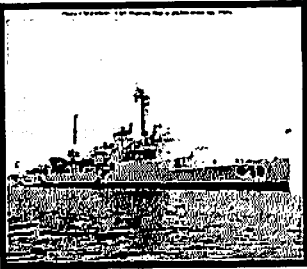
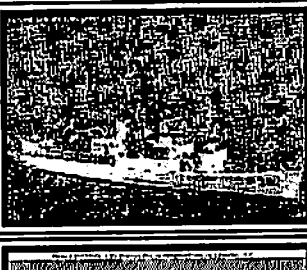
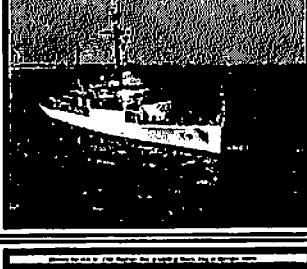

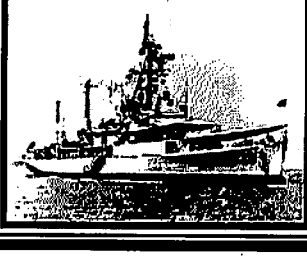
Speed 18.6 kts.

Complement 215

Armament one single 5"/38 dual purpose gun mount, one quad 40mm gun mount, two dual 40mm gun mounts, four dual 20mm gun mounts

Propulsion diesel, two shafts, 6,000hp

Click On Image For Full Size Image	Size	Image Description	Contributed By / Source
	71k	<i>Duxbury Bay (AVP-38)</i> , photographed off Lake Washington Shipyards, Houghton, WA., 28 December 1944. Her camouflage is Measure 33 Design 1F. <i>US National Archives photo # 19-N-82815</i> , a US Navy photo from the Bureau of Ships Collection in the US National Archives.	US Naval Historical Center
	85k	<i>Duxbury Bay (AVP-38)</i> , photographed off Lake Washington Shipyards, Houghton, WA., 28 December 1944. Her camouflage is Measure 33 Design 1F. <i>US National Archives photo # 19-N-82816</i> , a US Navy photo from the Bureau of Ships Collection in the US National Archives.	US Naval Historical Center
	71k	<i>Duxbury Bay (AVP-38)</i> , photographed off Lake Washington Shipyards, Houghton, WA., 28 December 1944. Her camouflage is Measure 33 Design 1F. <i>US National Archives photo # 19-N-82817</i> , a US Navy photo from the Bureau of Ships Collection in the US National Archives.	US Naval Historical Center
	85k	<i>Duxbury Bay (AVP-38)</i> , photographed during the decade following World War II. She lost her 5"/38 gun in around 1956. <i>US National Archives photo # NH 97626</i> , a US Navy photo from the collections of the US Naval Historical Center	US Naval Historical Center
	115k	<i>Duxbury Bay (AVP-38)</i> , photographed during the decade following World War II. She lost her 5"/38 gun in around 1956. <i>US Navy photo # NH 97627</i> from the collections of the US Naval Historical Center.	US Naval Historical Center
	84k	<i>Duxbury Bay (AVP-38)</i> , photographed during the late 1950s. <i>US Navy photo # NH 95370</i> from the collections of the US Naval Historical Center.	US Naval Historical Center

			
	81k	<i>Duxbury Bay (AVP-38)</i> , photographed ca. 1959 as Middle East Force flagship. She still displays the naval aviation star on her bow. <i>US Navy photo # NH 97630</i> from the collections of the US Naval Historical Center.	US Naval Historical Center
	105k	<i>Duxbury Bay (AVP-38)</i> , photographed ca. 1959 as Middle East Force flagship. She still displays the naval aviation star on her bow.	Hazegray & Underway Web Site
	91k	<i>Duxbury Bay (AVP-38)</i> , photographed in Hampton Roads, VA., 3 October 1957. <i>US Navy photo # NH 97628</i> from the collections of the US Naval Historical Center.	US Naval Historical Center
	70k	<i>Duxbury Bay (AVP-38)</i> , photographed illuminated at night during a two-day visit to Basra, Iraq, as Middle East Force flagship. Her last two visits to Basra were on 6-8 December 1960 and 12-14 December 1961. <i>US Navy photo # NH 97629</i> from the collections of the US Naval Historical Center.	US Naval Historical Center
	98k	<i>Duxbury Bay (AVP-38)</i> , photographed ca. 1965 as Middle East Force flagship in her final configuration. She received a new mast and air search radar and a deck house extension during her last shipyard overhaul in the summer of 1962. <i>US Navy photo # NH 69826</i> from the collections of the US Naval Historical Center.	US Naval Historical Center

View the **Duxbury Bay (AVP-38)**
DANES history entry located on the Haze Gray & Underway Web Site.